

activity. Normally this depends on the detection of tubercle bacilli in the sputum or gastric smear, or by culture, and variations in the reliability of detecting such bacteria are well known. It is to be hoped that future monographs of this type will establish more clearly the basis upon which the final diagnosis of activity of pulmonary tuberculosis is made.

The monograph represents an enormous amount of work and should be of interest to all students of epidemiology and tuberculosis.

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**THE POSTURAL COMPLEX**—Observations as to Cause, Diagnosis and Treatment—Laurence Jones, B.S., M.D., Chief Orthopedist, Menorah Hospital, 1932-1943, Kansas City, Missouri; Visiting Orthopedist, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, 1944-1953; Midway Hospital, 1948-1954, Los Angeles. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1955. 156 pages, \$9.75.

Dr. Laurence Jones, the author of this book, has spent a good deal of time, written extensively and attempted to explain in a scientific and logical fashion the alterations and mechanics that produce pain in the low back, knees and feet, due to postural deformity in the lower extremities. A good deal of the book has to do with the presentation of the author's theories regarding the influence of evolutionary adaptation upon the development of postural change in the human body. If one accepts all of the presented theory as being factual, then a great deal of his conclusions must be also accepted as being logical and reasonable. If the book does nothing except to point out the importance of the postural complex in this day and age when intervertebral disk pathology and surgical intervention is resorted to so extensively, it has accomplished a very worthwhile purpose.

The meat of the book has to do with the author's specific steps in assuring proper correction of stance in the foot in order to correct the imbalance produced by postural deformity in the remaining portions of the lower extremities and low back. Anyone who would take the time to study the author's methods and put them into practice would help a good many people overcome the disability due to postural back ache and postural disability in the lower extremities without doubt.

There is no question but that the author presents a very solid argument for his theory and that there is a good deal to be said for it in practical application and treatment of postural back ache. The one valid criticism and real criticism is that the author presents his theory as being the total and complete answer to the problem of low back disability. I doubt if this is entirely correct. It is a book, however, that should be read carefully by anyone having occasion to see any number of patients with low back disability of any kind.

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**PREPARING FOR MOTHERHOOD**—Samuel R. Meaker, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Gynecology, Boston University, School of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago Illinois, 1956. 196 pages, \$2.00.

Meaker's book on "Preparing for Motherhood," is an excellent little volume of 190 pages. It is a "manual for expectant parents." It tells the story of pregnancy and delivery and the postpartum period in simple, easily understood language. The information is up to date and strictly to the point. The author's views are conservative, and, I should say, representative of the majority opinion in the civilized world today. Satisfactory information is given about the early stages of pregnancy, its diagnosis, the symptoms and bodily changes. Early medical consultation is advised; the usual steps in antenatal examination and care are outlined. The most common complications are discussed, particularly in relation to the symptoms which might arise. Diet

is discussed in detail, in fact, in somewhat disproportionate detail. The events of labor are described and pain relief is discussed in terms of today's most usual routines, i.e. mild analgesia and sedation with Demerol and barbiturates or conduction anesthesia, particularly low spinal. Meaker does not attempt to impress a particular point of view, beyond that of conservatism. "Natural childbirth" is described in sympathetic but unenthusiastic terms. A very helpful portion of the book describes the after events and care, in relation to infant feeding whether breast or otherwise; exercises, checkup, examinations, etc. An attempt is made to bring the husband into the picture as much as possible in the interest of good psychological relationships. He is encouraged to be thoughtful and attentive to his wife during the antenatal period and to be with her during the first stages of labor whenever possible. His participation in the events of the puerperium, breast feeding, holding the baby, care in precluding the jealousy of prior children in the family, etc., are discussed very sympathetically.

A minor note of criticism. The print is too small for easy reading with my eyesight. However, the book would make a very acceptable assignment for certain sources of information for prospective parents.

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**PROTECTING CHILDREN IN ADOPTION**—Report of a Conference. Children's Bureau Publication—354, 1955, Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, 43 pages, 20 cents.

The above pamphlet is a report on a conference on adoptions, participating in which were representative delegates from all parts of United States. It is an exceedingly worthwhile pamphlet and should be in the hands particularly of obstetricians and pediatricians. However since many doctors adopt children into their own families or advise other families regarding adoption it would be well for every medical person to be acquainted with its contents.

The first part of the conference was devoted to a summary of a study that was made by a single individual who visited different parts of United States in order to obtain direct information concerning adoption practices. Two places reputed to be practicing black marketing of babies were visited but areas that have good and workable laws concerning adoption procedure were also studied.

The report to the conference included figures on demand and supply of babies, studies on the prenatal care of unmarried as compared with married mothers, a summary of community resources and a review of state legislation. As the conference came under way the following subjects were discussed: In one group the problems reviewed were: The "hard to place" children; agency versus non agency placements; the Federal control question, and a "definition of terms." The second group discussed "professions in the forefront" under which the viewpoints of physicians, lawyers, social agencies, and other professionals were presented. The third group concerned itself particularly with "the child as the rallying point." The fourth section is the work groups' report, under the following headings: (1) philosophical and ethical considerations, (2) education, (3) extension of services, and (4) legislation, especially the Uniform Adoption Act and Inter-County Adoptions.

The pamphlet is highly recommended.

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**CHEST X-RAY DIAGNOSIS**—2nd Edition—Max Ritvo, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Radiology, Harvard Medical School. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1956. 640 pages, 633 illustrations on 426 engravings and 1 color plate, \$16.00.

This second edition of a monograph dealing with the x-ray diagnosis of diseases of the chest is patterned essentially